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Treatment of the Japanese in Shansi

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1. Living conditions among the Japanese in Taiyuan (112-35, 37-52) are good. Those in government organizations are paid 3,000,000 - 5,000,000 CMC in cash in addition to rice or flour, according to the number in each family, and dwellings are furnished free of rent. Japanese restaurants and shops are in operation, just as they were before the Japanese surrender. There are seven Japanese primary schools in Taiyuan, attended by more than 600 children. YEN Hsi-shan frequently contributed money to these schools and allows the Japanese flag to fly from the poles in the school gardens. All the Japanese are quite content with YEN's treatment of them and are willing to work for him. On Sunday afternoons drunken Japanese soldiers in Chinese uniforms can be seen on the streets under the tolerant eyes of the Chinese police.

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2. One or two changes can be noted in the Japanese community in Taiyuan. Although the auxiliary organs of the Japanese army such as the supply center, clothing depot, news office, etc., are still in operation, the atmosphere of Japanese militarism is outwardly, at least, disappearing, while liberal articles and editorials in the Taiyuan periodicals have remarkably increased in number. Although the recent repatriation of Japanese from Shansi was nothing more than free resignation on the part of those who were dissatisfied with their terms of employment and the slightly tightened control recently experienced by them, YEN publicized it as "mass repatriation". YEN Hsi-shan has possibly become more sensitive to the policies of Nanking, especially since he is anxious to improve his markets for iron and other mineral products in the Shanghai-Nanking area. There are no indications, however, that YEN intends to diminish the number of his Japanese workers. On the contrary, he is as determined as ever to retain as many Japanese as possible, both military and technical, and to secure their closest cooperation in such tasks as the preparation of studies on the exploitation of Shansi's natural resources and the military defense of his territory. In Taiyuan, alone, he has retained 3,000 technical experts.

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3. Japanese troops under YEN Hsi-shan number about 3,000 officers and men and belong to one unit, the Temporary Tenth Independent Column (Chan Pien Tu Li Ti Shih Tsung Tui) (暫編獨立第十總隊). This unit is the former 4173 Unit, which was stationed in Taiyuan before the Japanese surrender and which, after the surrender, cooperated with YEN on his return to Taiyuan under the new designation, "Field Unit" (Yeh Chan Pu Tui) (野戰部隊). The unit was renamed the Temporary Tenth Independent Column in June 1947. Included in the column are a tank unit and an artillery unit, both of which have been described as crack units. Detachments of the column are stationed in the vicinities of Taiyuan and Hainchou (112-45, 38-23). The organization of the column is shown in part below. YEN has given all his Japanese officers Chinese names and has applied to the Central Government for their registration in Shansi

CO : Lt. Gen. CHIN Shu-to (晉樹德) (KITOKU, Susumi)  
 General Staff : KIANG Mo (廣末) (HIROSE)  
 Services and Supplies : HSIANG Liang (相良) (SAGARA)  
 Medical Corps : CHI Tee (吉澤) (YOSHIZAWA)  
 Information Office : CH'ENG Yeh (城野) (JONO)  
 Ordnance : (unknown)

- 25X1 [ ] Note: Except for that of the commanding officer, the above "Chinese names" are merely Chinese readings for the Japanese names given after the characters. It is possible that CHIN Shu-to is Maj. Gen. TSUYUKI /Toku/ or UYENO. TSUYUKI was named as the commander of the 4173 Unit in a CCA New China News Agency release of 12 December 1947, while a release of 16 December 1947 by the same agency gave UYENO as the commander.)

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4. Japanese troops in Shansi are under the command of Maj. Gen. YAMAKA (山崎), chief of staff of the Japanese Shansi Army at the time of the Japanese surrender.

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5. A unit of armed Japanese is stationed in Taiyuan under the command of Marshal YEN Hsi-shan. This unit is about 100,000 strong. In maintaining his peculiar neutrality between the Chinese Communists, YEN feels that a strong Japanese unit is his best protection, since either of his two enemies [?] Chinese Communists and Nationalists? may defeat him the moment his military power is undermined, and he consequently continues to rely upon the friendly cooperation of these Japanese, whom he treated generously during the two years following their surrender. Although diminished in number, the Japanese troops in Shansi have never been disarmed, and YEN has reassured them of further service under his command, which, he alleges, was "borrowed from Emperor Hirohito". No re-education or reorganization of the Japanese forces has been undertaken, and they still uphold the traditional faith in Hirohito's "deity". The only change is their use of the Chinese Nationalist uniform. Their supply center is used as a virtual department store for the Japanese civilians; their propaganda section has been given control of a newspaper and world news is printed weekly in Japanese with strong anti-Communist editorials and moderate criticism of the Kuomintang. The Japanese war monument (in Taiyuan) is maintained with respect; and Japanese civilians still bow when passing Japanese sentries.

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In short, the atmosphere of the Japanese occupation still remains, but without the former arrogance toward the Chinese citizens.

6. During the Japanese occupation, YEN was frequently invited to Chungking and Yenai. The small town in which he lived, between Muchai (111-49, 36-55) and Paote (111-03, 39-01), was at that time near the Chinese Communist zone of occupation, and YEN was often invited to dinner by the Chinese Communist district chief. In spite of the fact that YEN had more than 90 invitation cards from Chinese Communists and numerous invitations from Chungking, all of which he refused, he still maintained good relations with Chungking and Yenai.
7. At the same time he maintained close connections with the Japanese Army in Shansi, and top-ranking Japanese officers often visited him to discuss the administration of Shansi Province. The Japanese could not even appoint a haian chief without YEN's consent, since, without it, the haian inhabitants refused to recognize the authority of the appointed official. YEN's influence among Shansi people is still strong enough to cause the Chinese Communists to hope for YEN's cooperation.
8. At present the Chinese Communists are not aggressive in YEN's territory, since so much of their strength is concentrated in Manchuria. It appears as if YEN has reached a compromise with them, but, in reality, while both sides enjoy relative peace, the intention to remain quiet for the time being is stronger in Chinese Communist circles. Another factor influencing the possibility of compromise is the close cooperation with YEN of YAMAKA (see paragraph 4), one of the best experts on the Soviet Union in the Japanese Army, once a military attache to Moscow and a fluent speaker of Russian. If YAMAKA is allowed to return to Japan, the possibility of compromise will be greater.

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